Message Text

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O R 291341Z JUN 78 FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2514

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHSA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CDES(GLEN, LONNIE)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF LONNIE GLEN

REF: (A) STATE 162304(NOTAL) (B) REPORT OF DEATH OF GLEN ESCHTRUTH DATES MAY 31,977, (C) 77 STATE 136633(NOTAL) (D) 77 LUBUMBASHI 7#43 (NOTAL) (E) LUBUMBASI 0542

1.REFTEL A SUGGESTS THAT CONSULATE WAS IN ERROR IN ISSUING REPORT OF DEATH FOR LONNIE GLEN. PLEASE NOTE THAT NEITHER FAM 7 441, NOR STATE AIRGRAM A-1229 OF MARCH 2,1976 DEAL WITH THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH IN TIME OF WAR. AT SUCH TIMES, IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE DEATH CERTIFICATES. BODIES MUST BE BURIED QUICKLY WITHOUT BENEFIT OF FORMAL EXAMINATION AND IDENTIFICATION.

2. NEITHER 7FAM441 NOR STATE AIRGRAM A-1229 STATES THAT A SWORN AFFIDAVIT CANNOT BE USED AS BASIS FOR REPORT OF DEATH. PARA NINE OF AIRGRAM STATES QUOTE A STATEMENT FROM A SUPPOSED WITNESS A FRIEND ETC, IS NOT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS UPON WHICH TO CERTIFY THAT A PERSON IS DEAD QUOTE. AS STATED IN 7 FAM 832.1 A SWORN AFFIDAVIT CAN BE USED TO OBTAIN A PERJURY CONVICTION IF FOUND TO BE FALSE. THIS THEREFORE SETS AFFIDAVIT APART FROM SIMPLE "STATEMENT" REFERRED TO IN AIRGRAM.

3. GIVEN LACK OF SPECIFITY OF STATE INSTRUCTIONS, CONSULATE UNCLASSIFIED

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RELIED ON PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED IN SIMILAR CASE WHICH OCCURED DURING 1977 SHABA HOSTILITIES. POST ISSUED REFERENCE B ON BASIS OF SWORN AFFIDAVITS. REFTEL CA QUESTIONED POSTS AUTHORITY REFTEL D REPLIED THAT TWO FRIENDS HAD FOUND AND EXAMINED BODY AND HAD NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS THAT OF VICTIM. CONSULATE HAS NO RECORD OF ISSUANCE OF A SECOND REPORT OF DEATH OR PRESUMPTIVE REPORT OF DEATH CASE. NEITHER DOES CONSULATE

HAVE RECORD OF ANY FURTHER COMMENT FROM DEPT. IT THEREFORE SEEMED LOGICAL TO CONCLUDE THAT A REPORT OF DEATH COULD BE ISSUED ON THE BASIS OF A SWORN AFFIDAVIT IN THIS SIMILAR CASE.

- 4. DUE TO SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH, CONSULATE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT ERRED IN ISSUING REPORT OF DEATH.
- 5. IF DEPT WISHES TO MAINTAIN THAT POST ERRED, CONSULATE SUGGESTS THAT DEPT ISSUE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL POSTS CONCERING ISSUANCE OF REPORT OF DEATH IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING IN WAR.
- 6. AFTER REPORT OF DEATH ISSUED, CONSULATE RECEIVED DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR LONNIE GLEN SIGNED BY DR RUPPOL OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA, IT IS BASED ON UNCONFIRMED INFORMATION IT IS MUCH MORE TENIOUS THAN RICHARD HAAGS SWORN AFFIDAVIT. HOWEVER IT IS A DEATH CERTIFICATE AND DOES SEEM TO TECHNICALLY FILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF REFTEL A. IF DEPT CONTINUES TO INSIST ANOTHER REPORT OF DEATH WILL BE ISSUED.
- 7. CONSULATE STRONGLY URGES, HOWEVER, THAT SECOND REPORT OF DEATH NOT BE ISSUED. A DEATH IS A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE FOR A FAMILY. TO ISSUE A SECOND REPORT OF DEATH CONTAINING SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME INFORMATION AS THE ORIGINAL MERELY BECAUSE WE HAVE RECEIVED A TENNOUS DEATH CERTIFICATE CANNOT HELP BUT TO INCREASE THE FAMILY'S AGONY. UNCLASSIFIED

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8. CONSULATE HOPES DEPT WILL RECONSIDER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL A.

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